

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-15, 17-23, 25, 27-33, 37, 39-41, and 43-47 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 25, 32, and 43 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24 and 48-50 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claims 1, 25, 32, and 43 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 24, and 48-50, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 25, 32, and 43 are now deemed to be allowable.

Claims 24, 38, and 48-50 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Dependent claims 2, 6, 8-15, 17-23, 27-31, 33, 37-41, and 44-47 are allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1, 25, 32, and 43, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein. Dependent claims 8, 10-15, 20, 23, 37, 39-41, and 44-47 are amended to be consistent with the amendments to independent claims 1, 25, 32, and 43.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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